

Another subject of discussion was the punishment for violations of the cull law in the Potomac. Under the present provisions of the law, offenders from either State when apprehended have the right to be tried before a magistrate of their own State. Maryland oystermen claim that the Virginia magistrates have been entirely too lenient in imposing fines for violations of the law, thus encouraging the Virginia oystermen to disregard the law. On the other hand, the Maryland magistrates have enforced the law vigorously and have compelled a wholesome respect for its provisions. The committees agreed to make the penalties for the violation of the law the same in both the States and that offenders should be taken before the nearest magistrate, no matter of which State they happen to be citizens.

Sub-committees were appointed to meet at a later date to formulate appropriate laws to cover the points agreed to as above stated, the sub-committee named on the part of Maryland, being Hon. Charles S. Grason, Hon. Jacob M. Moses and Hon. William F. Applegarth.

The sub-committee made frequent efforts to meet the Virginia sub-committee, but without success, and it has therefore been impossible to draft and have enacted laws which will prove of great advantage and profit to those engaged and interested in taking oysters in the waters common to the two States.

The committee has just been informed that the Legislature of Virginia at its recent session, before adjourning, continued the existence of its committee, to the end that a further conference may be held with the Maryland committee for the purpose of drafting laws covering the points hereinbefore referred to.

The committee therefore recommends that your Honorable body continue its existence for a further period of two years in order that proper laws may be drafted for introduction at the next session of the General Assembly.

The committee has in hand an unexpended balance which it hopes will be sufficient to entertain the Virginia Committee during its proposed visit to Annapolis in the near future.